

CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT
OF
EDUCATION

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DELAINE EASTIN

State Superintendent of Public Instruction

June 13, 2000

Dear District and County Superintendents:
Attention: Testing Directors

I am pleased to announce that the dates for the first administration of the High School Exit Examination (HSEE) (Senate Bill 2X, 1999) have been set. The dates were chosen after extensive discussion with the members of the High School Exit Examination panel and with educators from throughout California. Placing the testing dates in March will provide most districts with test results before the end of the school year and avoid direct conflicts with the Statewide Testing and Reporting (STAR) and Golden State Examination (GSE) testing calendars.

The reading and writing portion of the examination will be offered on Wednesday, March 7, 2001, and the mathematics portion of the examination will be offered on Tuesday, March 13, 2001. To accommodate students on year-round schedules, the reading and writing portion of the test will be offered again on Thursday, May 17, and the mathematics portion of the test will be offered on Thursday, May 24.

All schools must provide eligible students with the opportunity to take the HSEE on the designated dates in March. Only students on year-round schedules who are not attending school on the designated testing dates may take the HSEE in May. **Students may take the test only once in spring 2001.**

The law (EC Section 48980 [e]) requires that beginning with the 2000-2001 school year districts must notify parents or guardians of this new requirement. Enclosed is a *High School Exit Examination Parent Notification Assistance Packet for Districts and Schools* to help you with this notification process. The packet contains sample letters for incoming eighth and ninth graders. Also included is a parent brochure on the High School Exit Examination and the English-language arts and mathematics content standards recommended for inclusion in the field test. The recommended standards are subject to change until formally approved by the State Board of Education this fall. The color brochure and the packet with black and white masters also are posted on our website at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/statetests/hsee/hsee/html>.

The law states that "A pupil may take the high school exit examination in grade 9 beginning in the 2000-2001 school year. Each pupil shall take the high school exit examination in grade 10 beginning in the 2001-2002 school year and may take the examination during each subsequent administration,

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until each section of the examination has been passed.” (Education Code section 60851 [b]) It additionally states that “The exit examination shall be offered in each public school and state special school that provides instruction in grades 10, 11, and 12, on the dates designated by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. An exit examination may not be administered on any date other than those designated by the Superintendent of Public Instruction as examination days or makeup days.” (EC Section 60851 [c])

Additional information regarding the spring 2001 examination is forthcoming. If you have any questions about the HSEE, you may contact the Standards and Assessments Division at (916) 657-3011, or by fax at (916) 657-4964, or via e-mail at hsee@cde.ca.gov. I appreciate your cooperation as we continue to move toward a more cohesive system of curriculum, assessment, instructional materials, and professional development.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Delano Easton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "E".

State Superintendent of Public Instruction

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Enclosures